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the preselected dermal region below about 60°C before, during, or before and during the application of the energy.

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14. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) occurs in the absence of an exogenously provided radiation absorbing material.

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20. (Amended) A method of treating acne in a preselected dermal region of mammalian skin, the preselected dermal region having at least one acne lesion disposed therein, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) cooling an area of the skin above the preselected dermal region; and
- (b) exposing the preselected dermal region to a beam of radiation comprising a wavelength in the range from about 0.6 microns to about 1.8 microns to ameliorate the lesion while keeping the temperature of the area of the skin above the preselected dermal region below about 60°C before, during, or before and during the exposure to the beam of radiation.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein in step (b) the wavelength is in the range from about 1.2 to about 1.7 microns.

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30. (Amended) The method of claim 20, comprising the additional step of prior to step (b) providing a radiation absorbing material to the preselected dermal region.

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32. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein applying energy in step (b) reduces the size of a lesion disposed with the preselected dermal region.

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34. (Amended) The method of claim 20 or 32, wherein applying energy in step (b) reduces lesion-associated skin-inflammation in the preselected dermal region.